

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 552
By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to designate Pterotrignia (Scabrotrignia)
thoracica as the official fossil of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the rocks of Tennessee preserve a rich array of fossil types, including invertebrates, vertebrates and plants from all regions of Tennessee, and these fossils record life in Tennessee throughout the many different periods of our state's past; and

WHEREAS, fossils are the only record of the development and history of life on Earth and are thus a precious scientific and natural resource; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee fossils have been the focus of scientific study and collection for over 200 years, often figuring prominently in scientific advancements; and

WHEREAS, recognition and conservation of our natural resources is important for future residents of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of fossils encourages awareness and appreciation of the natural wonders of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, fossils have great popular appeal to students, collectors, and visitors to Tennessee, providing a common focus for the education of our citizens and visitors and increasing public awareness and understanding of earth history and life on earth; and

WHEREAS, fossils and earth history comprise a major component of the Tennessee Science Framework for K-12 education, and thus provide Tennessee educators with a valuable teaching tool; and

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WHEREAS, the bivalved invertebrate *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabrotrigonia*) *thoracica*, which inhabited the ancient seas that once covered much of Tennessee, is a unique fossil from the Coon Creek Formation of the Cretaceous geologic time period, which is well known to fossil collectors, researchers, and educators in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabrotrigonia*) *thoracica* epitomizes the many species of extinct organisms whose fossil remains are so abundantly preserved in the rocks throughout Tennessee, and is an easily recognizable symbol of Tennessee's fossil resources; and

WHEREAS, students and other interested persons have the opportunity to personally collect their own specimens of *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabrotrigonia*) *thoracica* and experience the "hands-on" approach to learning about Tennessee's fossil resources; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the fossil bivalve *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabrotrigonia*) *thoracica* of the Coon Creek Formation is hereby designated as the official fossil of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State is directed to include pertinent information about the fossil bivalve *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabrotrigonia*) *thoracica*, including its designation as the official state fossil, in the 1999-2000 edition of the Tennessee Blue Book.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of State.